

## **Recreation**

### **Existing Conditions**

The project area occurs within a Roaded Natural (RN) area as determined by the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). The Wallen Ridge Trail (Trail No. 326), trail class 2, lies within the project area. Recreation in the area is dispersed in nature and includes activities such as hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, driving for pleasure, camping, etc. No developed camping opportunities occur within the project area. Public vehicular access to the area and associated recreational opportunities is available seasonally via Forest Road 641. Other system roads in the area include 2764 and 2764A which are not open to public motorized travel, though foot travel is permitted. Other legacy non-system routes likely exist within the project area but are not Forest Service system roads. Scenic resources are addressed in the Turkey Cove Scenic Resources Specialist Report.

### **Direct and Indirect Effects**

#### **Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)**

Alternative 1, depending on the timing of timber harvesting, temporary road construction, road maintenance and prescribed fire, may create intermittent, short-term negative impacts to recreation within the project area. Negative impacts would include impeding or preventing access to the area as well as noise disturbance to recreationists and in some cases the wildlife they seek while project activities are occurring. These impacts are the result of equipment operation, log truck traffic, and prescribed fire operations.

Following implementation, the activities described including timber harvest, prescribed burning, road maintenance, temporary route creation and wildlife opening maintenance all have the potential to enhance existing recreational opportunities in the area. Those activities increasing hard and soft mast production will lead to increased forage availability and may therefore improve available hunting opportunities. The increased soft mast production in addition to increasing forage will provide an opportunity for berry picking. Early successional habitat creation and maintenance of existing wildlife openings will create habitat conditions that don't currently exist or occur infrequently. Creating and improving these habitat conditions may lead to new hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities by fostering conditions for species which thrive in those habitat types. Temporary roads and skid trails create corridors that are often utilized by hikers, hunters, and those engaged in wildlife viewing. This improved access would be available short term though may be reduced over time due to natural revegetation. Temporary routes, skid trails, and other identified unauthorized routes will be blocked to prevent unauthorized motorized access. Improvements to system roads will enhance access opportunities by improving travel surfaces. The project activities as described will not change the current Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class of Roaded Natural.

**Alternative 2 (No Action)**

Alternative two is a “no action” alternative and would not have any impact on the existing condition of recreational resources.

**Cumulative Effects**

No additional timber management activities are planned to occur within the project area in the next 10 years and as such no significant cumulative effects are expected from either alternative.